

Finance Committee Minutes – 3/29/2016

The meeting began at 9:00 AM. Finance Committee (FC) members in attendance were Jim Consolati, Don Puntin and Tonio Palmer. Also in attendance were Mike Curtin, Roger Ketron and Noah Choquette. The entire meeting was devoted to the proposed budget for fiscal year 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017 (FYE 2017). Jim Consolati prepared the minutes for this meeting.

Proposed Budget for 2016 Annual Town Meeting (ATM)

Board of Assessors - Mike Curtin and Roger Ketron reported on the transition following the retirement of Tim Taylor. Mike and Roger provided the FC with a very good overview of board-member duties and that of the consulting firm that is assuming duties formerly performed by Tim Taylor. Our discussion covered computer system access, computer file-backup arrangements, designated consultant contacts and anticipated annual budget amounts. Mike also presented his ideas for an online system that would provide public access to all property valuations and tax assessments.

Highway Department – Noah Choquette provided the FC with detailed explanations of budget requests for FYE 2017. This included regular maintenance, reconstruction of roadways, equipment and bridges. We also discussed the need for long-term equipment and reconstruction plans, how to improve the accuracy of project estimates, the use of state Chapter 90 funds and compensation levels for highway crew members.

General Budget Items – The FC spent the remainder of the meeting reviewing, discussing and refining general budget requests. This included continuation of our review of compensation levels for town employees, elected officials and committee members. The FC will review the proposed budget with the Select Board on 4/5/16 at their regular meeting. The FC will revise its budget draft for FYE 2017 and will prepare estimates for the FYE 2017 tax rate and available funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.